



HUI HO'OMALU
STATEWIDE
RESOURCE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

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No Name Newsletter

Want to help name our
newsletter?
See inside for details...

Volume 1, Issue 1

October 2007

A Message From The Director

One of the most altruistic ways people can contribute to society is by serving as resource families for children and youth in foster care. It takes a special kind of person to take on this demanding role – someone willing to open his or her heart and home on a temporary basis while the Family Court decides if the keiki should be reunited with their biological parents or placed with adoptive parents.

On any given day in Hawai'i, we have about 2,100 children in foster care, and there is a constant need to recruit and train additional resource families statewide who can provide safe and loving homes. It is also important that our resource families support the need for foster keiki to stay connected with their siblings and other family members during this difficult time in their young lives.

Because more than half our foster children are of Hawaiian or part-Hawaiian ancestry, we have a particularly great need for additional Native Hawaiian foster parents. It is very important that these keiki maintain close ties with their cultural heritage.

As Department of Human Services (DHS) Director, I work closely with Governor Lingle, government agencies and community groups to increase support for resource families. An example of this added support is the Governor's approval of Act 192 following the 2006 Legislative Session. That bill, which was proposed by the Lingle-Aiona Administration and approved by the House and Senate, authorizes foster parents to attend and participate in Child Protective Act proceedings in Family Court involving their foster children.

We all know that resource families are often involved in making critical life decisions for their foster children, so it is important that these foster parents be able to attend Family Court hearings, if they wish, and offer their insights and recommendations to the Judge.

Governor Lingle has also increased support for State employees who serve as licensed foster parents for abused and neglected children. Under a directive she signed this July, State workers are granted administrative leave so they can attend Family Court hearings involving their foster children. This new program acknowledges the invaluable contributions of resource families and encourages other State employees to consider opening their homes to foster keiki.

In closing, I want to thank the Resource Advisory Committee and the numerous community groups that assist DHS in recruiting and training foster parents and locating adoptive families. These community partners include: Partners In Development Foundation, Catholic Charities of Hawai'i, Heart Gallery Hawai'i, HOPE INC, Foster Family Programs of Hawaii, Kōkua 'Ohana and EPIC 'Ohana Conferencing.

Mahalo for your support of Hawai'i's foster children!

Lillian B. Koller
Director, Hawai'i DHS



*Lillian B. Koller, Director
Hawai'i Department of Human Services*

The Hui Ho'omalua Statewide Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) provides support to the foster/resource family community through identifying ongoing needs, facilitating communication and by sharing resources.

The RAC Newsletter is published four times a year to provide information regarding foster and adoptive care to foster/resource parents, service providers, legal guardians and to the public.

This newsletter may be viewed on the following websites:

[www.hawaii.gov/dhs/protection/
social_services/child_welfare/
Foster](http://www.hawaii.gov/dhs/protection/social_services/child_welfare/Foster)

www.pidfoundation.org

To be placed on the mailing list or if you would like to receive an electronic copy, please call 441-1125 (O'ahu), 888-879-8970 (Toll Free) or E-mail: RAC@pidfoundation.org

We Are Family

By Kim Bowlin, Maui Foster/Resource Parent

I have been a foster/resource parent for the Department of Human services for more than five years. I provide a safe and stable home environment for children zero to eighteen years old, that have been separated and/or removed from their biological families. Providing children with individual care and emotional support both in rural and developed areas of Maui has been my privilege.

I am a single parent, a foster resource emergency home, an employee, a teacher and a gardener. On my high school resume I wrote, "Happiness to me would be a home by the ocean, full of children." I have since told my children to be careful what they wish for. I am blessed that my high school wish came true.



**Kim Bowlin, Maui Foster/
Resource Parent**

Can you imagine forcing yourself to not remember a childhood story or a memory that made you sad and cry? Most of us talk about the good old days of school, personal experiences, best friends and family. Foster children have these memories, yet the stories they have are of hurt, shame, humiliation and extreme sadness. Families are supposed to be together forever. Unfortunately not all families have the opportunity to be together.

Late at night, a few years ago a young girl was removed from her family. She was so distraught and depressed. She had been in and out of the child welfare system before and really missed her big sister. My daughter is about the same age as her sister so the "new sister" bonds began. They have since become inseparable. Their combined energy can light up any room.

This summer we all got together for a joint birthday party. The guests included as many previous foster siblings as I could find. I was amazed to see so many familiar faces that had grown up. The children that came for the day shared happy memories. The stories they spoke were of their life and memories of our home; these stories were held in and then told to me after the years had wandered on. It was then that I realized how important the stay with me had been for every one of the children. I am so privileged to be such a huge part of their lives.

Family is made of the things that are shared, stories, memories and mostly trust. We have shared a lot with all of our children and in turn taught many how to trust again. 'Ohana/birth family ties are important — We aren't their blood but we are also part of their 'ohana. I hope you can find it in your heart to support and wish for trusting adults that have a genuine kindness for our precious children. Make a story and a happy memory. I do every day.

Remembering Michael Tongg

Michael Tongg was a lawyer, family man, paddler and longtime waterman. He and his wife, Jan Tongg, were also foster/resource parents for more than 50 children, providing them with a safe and loving home.

In remembrance of the late Michael Tongg, Family Court Judge, Francis Wong presented the following excerpt at the **'Ohana Is Forever** conference that took place on July 20, 2007.

Mike brought to his work not just legal expertise. The most important thing he brought to his work was love. Those of us who worked with him knew he was one of our very best GALs (Guardian ad Litem) and

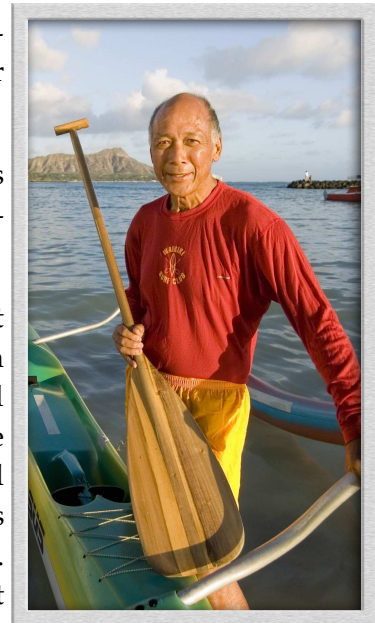
we have some pretty darn good GALs so that is saying something. The quality that he always brought to his children and

not just to his children but to his children's family whether they were the biological family, their foster family, or their extended kin family, was love. He brought this to his work, he brought this into the courtroom, he brought this to every home visit, he brought this to every meeting he had with every social worker, and you know we all felt this.

In our church we have adopted a tradition that is present in some Mexican churches where we say the name of people who have left before us. And, we acknowledge that they are still present in the room, they are still present in our hearts, by saying "presente" after we say their name. I am going to say Mike's name and we are going to say "presente."

Michael Tongg... "Presente."

Adapted with permission from
Judge Francis Wong



Michael Tongg

Tides

*'Ohana is our family and those that we embrace
We share our blessings that our flock will have a sense of place
Upon the sea, identify, to voyage you have dared
With open arms and open hearts, with others you have shared*

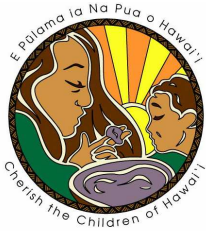
*And as you paddle, paddle to the sunset
A longing tear wells in my eye
You climb a wave, wave a fond aloha
A hui hou is not goodbye
The journey you embark on, returns you to the sea
But the changing tides will bring you back to me*

*A looming storm approaches dark skies with clouds of gray
Rough waters swell ahead of us with every passing day
I stand by you in sickness and in health as I avow
Through smiles and tears, the passing years
I love you then and now*

*And as you paddle, paddle to the sunset
A loving tear wells in my eye
You climb a wave, wave a fond aloha
A hui hou is not goodbye
The journey you embark on, returns you to the sea
But the changing tides will bring you back to me
Oh, the changing tides, the changing tides, the changing tides
The changing tides will bring you back to me*

Brian Shimabukuro, Adoptive Parent, wrote this song in remembrance of Mike Tongg.

**"The most
important thing
he brought to his
work was love"**



On September 1, 2006, Partners in Development Foundation (PIDF) was awarded a master contract from the State of Hawai'i Department of Human Services (DHS) to

form Hui Ho'omalua, "a group to protect and shelter".

The Hui strives to create and implement innovative strategies to better meet the needs of Hawai'i's keiki in foster care as well as the foster/resource families who care for them. Infused throughout this

HUI HO'OMALU

endeavor lies the concepts of collaboration, partnership, teamwork, community building and resource sharing.

Hui Ho'omalua consists of partnerships between DHS, PIDF, Catholic Charities Hawai'i, Foster Family Programs of Hawai'i, Kōkua 'Ohana and a

consortium of churches and other community providers, all working together to enhance and advance Hawai'i's foster care system. Collectively, the partnerships in Hui Ho'omalua represent the commitment to put first the needs of Hawai'i's keiki, 'ohana and communities.

MEET THE PARTNERS



The PIDF General Licensing Branch recruits, trains, conducts assessments and assists prospective general licensed foster/resource families through the licensing process statewide. *General Licensed* refers to those families that are willing to foster any unre-

Partners in Development Foundation—General Licensing Branch

lated child or adopt (adoption for older children, teens, and children with special needs.). PIDF-GL is raising awareness in our communities that our keiki need more foster/resource families by collaborating with churches, agencies, organizations, individuals and foster/resource families. As an incentive to help with recruitment efforts, we created the **Kōkua Bucks Program!** For every licensable family that you refer, you could receive \$200. If this peaked your interest call us at 441-1117 (O'ahu) or 888-879-8970 (Toll Free) to sign up for the next informational meeting in your area.



Lee Kalama, Lisa Kunioka, Linda Case, Michele Carvalho, Morgan Ching, Sharma Rae Torres, Rebecca Cheung, Richele Awana, Renee Rokero, Cindy Shimabukuro, Carol Morimoto, Aimee Kaalakea (Missing: Chris Wong)



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

Catholic Charities Hawai'i, through its "SRF" Program, provides an all-inclusive, integrated, and community-based ap-

Catholic Charities Hawai'i —Statewide Resource Family (SRF) Program

proach to identify, assess, train, and license Child-Specific foster/resource families (Special Licensed Relatives and Special Licensed Homes) for communities within East Hawai'i, West Hawai'i, Kaua'i, Lāna'i, Maui, Mo-

loka'i, and O'ahu. SRF works in conjunction with the Department of Human Services (DHS) Child Welfare Services (CWS) Branch to assist Child Specific foster/resource families through the licensing process. CCH also ad-

ministers a competency-based comprehensive training curriculum and provides assessment services. This is an integral process designed to ensure a safe and nurturing home for children in foster care.

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FOSTER FAMILY PROGRAMS OF HAWAII

If you are a foster parent, guardian, or adoptive parent, Foster Family Programs of Hawai'i (FFP) would like to support you as a resource family through the Resource Families Support Services Program. As a Hui Ho'omalua partner, FFP offers state-wide monthly support groups, quarterly trainings, warm line assistance, and a parent-to-parent mentoring program (Oahu).

The monthly support groups provide opportunities for you to share your thoughts and feelings and develop a support network

with other resource families.

Also, quarterly trainings, provided in five locations across the state, cover a variety of subjects that can assist and strengthen your family.

The Warm Line offers information and non-emergency telephone support, referrals and links to community resources.

Additionally, Resource Manuals, which provide listings of helpful agencies and programs, are available on FFP's website.

The newest addition, Parent-to-Parent Mentoring Program, matches seasoned resource families with families new to the child welfare system. This

Foster Family Programs of Hawai'i—Caring for Those Who Care



Back: Chiyomi Chow, Eva Chau, Jeannette Dilly-leas, Matthew Simmons, Anne Combs, Lorie Naftel, Mary Ann Araki
Front: Linda Santos, Marty Oliphant

mentoring program helps both new and seasoned families better support the children in their care.

In addition to the ongoing support of resource families, FFP will be hosting one-day conferences in Hilo, Kauai, Kona, Maui, and Oahu in the Spring of

2008, in collaboration with the other partners of Hui Ho'omalua.

For more information on any of these services, please call the Warm Line at 545-1130 (Oahu) or 1-866-545-0882 (toll-free on Neighbor Islands), or access FFP's website at www.FFPHawaii.org.



Kōkua 'Ohana

E mālama mai a hānai pū i nā pua kīhoē.
(Together, let us nurture and care for our precious displaced children)

Aloha mai kākou (everyone)!

Who are we? Kōkua 'Ohana is a program funded by the State of Hawai'i-Department of Human Services to reach out and recruit resource families for Native Hawaiian children in the foster care system.

What do we do and how do we do it?

Our foster care liaison teams on O'ahu focus their recruit-

ment efforts in areas where there are high concentrations of Native Hawaiians, while also attending events that feature Hawaiian values and cultural activities and approaching organizations that are interested in working with Native Hawaiian families and children. We also work with faith-based organizations and churches, as they are great resources for families. Our goal is to have each church support one (or more!) foster families.

When do we do it? We will go wherever and whenever there is an opportunity to meet people. We have been at conventions, community fairs, churches and family events!



Kanani Krafft, Wendy Mow-Taira, Corrina Moefu, Lisa Letoto-Ohata, Jonelle Fiesta, Anuhea Diamond
(Missing—Teresa Shuptrine)

Continued on page 6

Catholic Charities Hawai'i—SRF

Continued from page 4

In addition, the SRF program is also part of the Family Connections Consortium (FCC), which provides assistance to DHS in identifying, locating, and confirming kinship connections and support networks for children and youth in the foster care system.

Throughout the first year of its inception, the SRF program grew from one position on Oahu to 42 positions and 5 separate offices in East Hawai'i, West Hawai'i, Kaua'i, Lāna'i, Maui, Mōloka'i, and O'ahu. The staff continues to grow in numbers as well as experience, while the number of assessments, trainings, and the resulting licensed foster/resource families also continues to increase.



Back: Arlina Wong, Sharon Simms, Sara Wong, Salome Bala, Gregg Tanaka, Kendra Jones, Doris Taitague, Jennifer Grant, James Hagen, Marisa Liu, Jason Badua
Front: Shane Taylor, Joy Lacanienta, Joe Abrams, Brittney Atienza, Lisa Ota, Leah Gabriel, Michelle Cendana, Lynette Tanaka, Tippy Kauanoe-Sagapolutele



Mamie Virtua, Shawn Humphers, Denise Orey, Jonathan Mendoza



Stephanie Acoba-Lee, Erin Basque



SRF Kaua'i



SRF Maui

Far Left: Kau'i Kanoho, Jody Aronica

Left: Karol Van Zwalenburg, Brendon Friedman, Sandra Howeth

Kōkua 'Ohana

Continued from page 5

What else do we do? We help families through the licensing process from filling out an application to providing support even after children are placed in

their homes. We also help provide emergency clothing, baby items and various donations through our network of supportive hui. We partner with businesses to

sponsor special events and gifts. For example, for the past two years, 25 girls have been gifted with a specially designed Hawaiian bracelet, courtesy of Royal Hawaiian Heritage

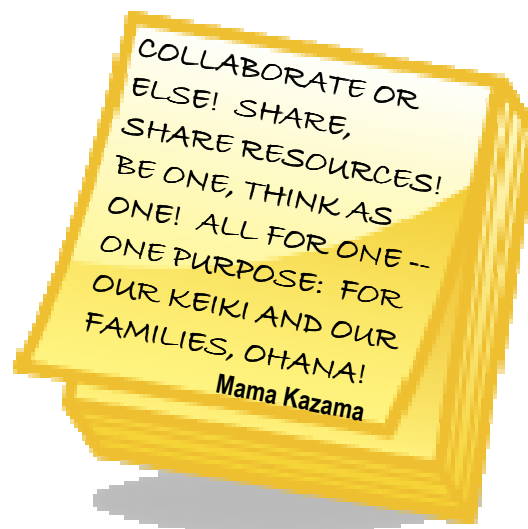
Jewelry. We will be working with the Resource Advisory Committee to plan more events and we look forward to meeting you there! *A hui hou (See you later)!*

Mama Kazama's Mantra Moments...

As we were challenged to maximize our collaborative efforts between private and public sectors for our keiki and 'ohana---I had these mantras that I would hammer away constantly to get a message across to try to get us on the same page. They were so constant--it became expected, annoy-

ing and hopefully funny and internalized/meaningful. For what it is worth, these mantras may appear periodically ---Enjoy or Tune out!

By: Lynne Kazama, DHS Program Development Staff



What is a Foster/Resource Family?



The term "resource family" includes all the types of families that provide care for children for whom the Department of Human Services (DHS) has placement responsibility due to

confirmed maltreatment and who cannot remain in their homes of origin. This includes relative or kinship families, including "hanai" relationships; foster families, families providing respite care; pre-adoptive, adoptive and post-adoptive families; and families who agree to assume legal guardianship or permanent custody of the child.

A resource family is any type of family that is willing, committed to and capable of meeting the needs of the child whatever those may be.

Happy Anniversary!

How long have you been a foster/resource parent? Five years? Ten years? Fifteen years? More? We would like to honor those foster/resource families who have been opening their hearts and homes to Hawaii's keiki by printing their names and current years of service in our newsletter.



We know you are out there but we need your help. Please send your name and years of service to:

RAC@pidfoundation.org
(Oahu) 441-1125
(Toll Free) 888-879-8970

Mahalo for your dedication and hard work!

Thoughts?

Your input and opinions are valuable to us. Occasionally, we may be asking you to fill out surveys. With the information that you provide us, we hope to better serve the foster/resource community.

In this issue, we would like to find out information regarding your access to computers and the internet. It shouldn't take more than a couple of minutes to complete then, all you need to do is drop it in the mailbox. Oh, did we forget to mention that if you return the survey by **November 9, 2007**, your name will be entered in a drawing for prizes? So, what are you waiting for - Get out those pens and mail in those surveys!

Name The Newsletter Contest

HELP! Who ever heard of a “No Name” Newsletter? We need your kōkua in finding the perfect name for this newsletter! Put on those thinking caps and send in your suggestions. The winner’s name will be published in our January issue and they will also receive a “Mahalo” gift for their contribution. Please send your suggestions to:

E-mail: RAC@pidfoundation.org

441-1125 (O’ahu)

888-879-8970 (Toll Free)

DEADLINE: November 30, 2007

(Please include your name & how we can contact you if you send in the winning entry.)

Got A Story To Share?

Would you like to share some helpful tips? Got an inspirational story to tell? Know of some useful resources in your community?

These are just some of the many possibilities that you can contribute to this newsletter. Please send them over so we can all benefit from each other’s wisdom!

E-mail: RAC@pidfoundation.org

441-1125 (O’ahu)

888-879-8970 (Toll Free)



Community Classifieds

Do you have something that you would like to donate to other foster/resource parents but you don’t know how to get the word out? Are you looking for something that would help you care for your foster/adoptive keiki but you don’t know where to find it? The **Community Classifieds** may be able to help.

Let’s help each other by sharing our resources. The **Community Classifieds** is FREE to post items to donate as well as wanted ads if you are looking for items to help you care for your keiki.

Send your classified ads to: E-mail: RAC@pidfoundation.org
(Oahu) 441-1125

Advertise in the Newsletter—Promote Your Business

100% of the proceeds will be used towards supporting our foster/resource families

Display advertisements with borders: business card size = \$30; 1/4 page = \$50; 1/2 page = \$75; full page = \$115.

Send information to:

Hui Hoomalu—RAC, 680 Iwilei Rd., Ste. 500, Honolulu, HI 96817

Phone: 441-1125 (Oahu); 888-879-8970 (Toll Free); Fax: 441-1122; E-mail: RAC@pidfoundation.org

Hui Ho’omalua RAC reserves the right to accept, reject or edit advertisements, articles and notices of events based on publication schedule, space limitations, and appropriateness.

NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2007

You are invited to the National Adoption Day Celebration on November 17, 2007 at the Family Court House on Punchbowl St. The purpose of NAD is to finalize adoptions of children from foster care and to celebrate all adoptive families

10am: Finalize adoptions from Hawaii's foster care system

11am: Celebrate and honor all of Hawaii's adoptive families

Bring your families and have fun! The 11am ceremony will include Media, balloons, activities & prizes for children, music, food & professional family portraits for as many adoptive families as time & resources permit.

Contact Deeanna Wallace at 398-3089 or hopeinc@hawaii.rr.com or David Louis at 295-1929 or heartgalleryhawaii@yahoo.com w/ questions or if you would like to volunteer or contribute to the NAD celebration.

Hawai'i Foster Parent Association 4th ANNUAL WINE TASTING EVENT

Downtown @ the HiSAM

Saturday, October 27, 2007

6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Tickets: \$80



Join us at Ed Kenny's new restaurant, Downtown @ the HiSAM, for gourmet cuisine with a selection of wines from Majestic Fine Wines. The Hawai'i State Art museum will be open and a silent auction will be held during the event. Reservations are required and limited.

Call 808-522-1016 or email

info@hawaiifosterparent.org for ticket information.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 2007

27 4th ANNUAL WINE TASTING EVENT

Hawaii Foster Parent Association at the Hawaii State Art Museum. See ad on this page for details.

NOVEMBER 2007

1 "Managing Adoption & Foster Care Issues" with speaker Marlou Russell, PhD. Hilo Hawaiian Hotel. See ad on this page for details.

2 "Adoption Wisdom: The Lifelong Impact of Adoption on the Triad Members" with guest speaker Marlou Russell, PhD. Sponsored by Hawai'i Adoption & Permanency Alliance (HAPA) in cooperation w/ Child & Family Service. 8am—4pm, Japanese Cultural Center. \$50 conference cost. Limited scholarships for foster families & student discounts available. For more info, contact Gloria Cheong-Uyesugi at 543-8484.

17 NATIONAL ADOPTION DAY CELEBRATION

At the Family Court House on Punchbowl St. See ad on this page for details.

DECEMBER 2007

8 & 9 BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Prevent Child Abuse Hawaii. Free tickets available soon! Details to come. For more info, contact Prevent Child Abuse Hawaii at 951-0200.

(Date TBA) 2007 BIG, JOYOUS HOLIDAY PARTY

Foster Family Programs of Hawai'i offers a fun event for foster youth and their families during the Holiday Season at the Blaisdell Center Exhibition Hall. Details to come. For more info, contact FFP at 545-1130 (O'ahu) or 1-866-545-0882 (Toll Free Neighbor Islands).

MANAGING ADOPTION & FOSTER CARE ISSUES

Explore the impact of adoption and foster care on adoptees, foster children, birth parents, foster parents, adoptive parents, and professionals. Understand how the emotional issues of adoption and foster care get played out in day to day living. Examine the layered meanings of behavior. Find out how to help those involved in adoption and foster care manage their feelings, behaviors, and communications. Learn tips and techniques on creating and keeping peace in the family. Recognize the powerful influence you can have in the life of an adopted or foster child.

Speaker: Marlou Russell, Ph.D.
Date: Thursday, November 1, 2007
Time: 8:30 am - 1:30 pm (Brunch provided)
Where: Hilo Hawaiian Hotel, Moku'ola Room
71 Banyan Drive, Hilo

RSVP: By Monday, October 15, 2007 (Please call for availability if wanting to sign up after RSVP date)
Call Diane at: 808-933-0355 for more information

Registration Fees: \$25 Staff/Community
\$5 Foster, adoptive and legal guardian parents/VGAL

Sponsored by the East Hawaii Friends of Foster Families in collaboration with the Hawai'i Foster Parent Association.

**HUI HO'OMALU
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Fax: 441-1122

E-mail: RAC@pidfoundation.org

The concept for the Statewide Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) was created by the Department of Human Services (DHS) as a means to support the foster/resource family community. Hui Ho'omalū facilitates this committee comprised of foster/resource parents and various community agencies, all dedicated to providing services and support to Hawai'i's keiki and the foster/resource families who care for them. The purpose of the RAC is to identify ongoing needs, facilitate communication, share resources, provide information through a statewide calendar of events and a quarterly newsletter and report on local projects and other topics of interest to benefit Hawai'i's foster/resource families.

RAC Committee Members:

Catholic Charities Hawai'i—Hui Ho'omalū
Department of Health

Department of Human Services

EPIC, Inc. 'Ohana Conferencing

Family Court

Foster Family Programs of Hawai'i—Hui Ho'omalū

Foster/Resource Parents

Hawai'i Foster Parent Association

Hawai'i Foster Youth Coalition

Heart Gallery Hawai'i

HOPE INC

Partners in Development Foundation—Hui Ho'omalū & Kōkua 'Ohana

Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center

University of Hawai'i, School of Social Work

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